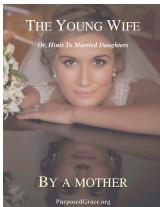


SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

December 9th, 2018

“Righteousness shall go before HIM; and shall set us in the way of HIS steps”

(PSALM 85:13)



New on our bookshelf... By A Mother
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JOSEPH D MURPHY, PASTOR

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**Sunday mornings beginning at 10 am,
and Wednesday evenings at 7 pm**

Services in Spanish Sunday evenings at 6 pm

Nursery

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

Guest Speakers

Austin Groover — Sun, Dec. 16th, Gary Borders — Wed, Dec. 19th

This evening's podcast will be from our PASTOR

PSALM 8 — O LORD OUR LORD

Recorded on Sunday morning, January 21st, 2018

To find our podcast search for the keyword **PurposedGrace** on



Apple's **Podcast App** or



Google's **Play Music App**

THAT SORCERESS FEAR

*“IN GOD I WILL PRAISE HIS WORD, IN GOD I HAVE PUT MY TRUST;
I WILL NOT FEAR WHAT FLESH CAN DO UNTO ME”*

(PSALM 56:4)

[Beloved] consider the various fears to which all God's converted people, and myself among the rest, are subject, while imprisoned in a body of clay.

Within are fears. For that sorceress, whose, name is fear, can transform herself into a multiplicity of shapes, though she is in reality, the same identical bag in all.

Sometimes she assumes the mantle of pretended humility; and whispers, that “we must not give absolute credit to God's covenant and promises, nor aspire to the comfort and enjoyment of them, for fear of being presumptuous.”

[And soon enough], she wears the mask of caution: “Do not rejoice in God's election, and in Christ's righteousness, for fear of being a self deceiver.” Whereas, in reality, all who can embrace the free favour of God, and all who can lay hold on the righteousness of Christ, have a covenant right to both. And why should not they who have a right to these, rejoice in the God to whose rich and immutable grace they are indebted for it?

At another time, fear accosts us in the garb of affected holiness; “you must bring,” says she, “a price in your hand, to God the Father; or Christ's redemption will profit you nothing. Do not undervalue yourself, by supposing that you can do no good work before you are

justified. I tell you, that you must work for life and justification. You must do good works, in order to be accepted; and fulfill a string of terms and conditions, seeing you are to be saved for your works, because of your works, yea, according to the merits of your works." But thou, O believer in Christ, flee these abominable doctrines. Hearken not to them, as you value the glory of God, the freeness of grace, the riches of Christ, the interests of *real* holiness, and your own happiness. Remember that the conditions of fallen man's salvation are two, and no more: namely, perfect atonement for sin, and perfect obedience to the law. Both these conditions Christ has completely fulfilled, in the stead, and for the infallible salvation, of every soul that comes to His *blood* for *cleansing*, and to His *righteousness* for *clothing*. "To what end, then, serves faith?" To let thee into the knowledge, possession, and enjoyment of this free and finished redemption. "And to what end serve good works?" Not to entitle us to God's favour, or even to pave (much less to pay) our way to His kingdom: but to glorify His name, to adorn His gospel, to evidence our adoption, and benefit others on our road to heaven.

[PASTOR] AUGUSTUS TOPLADY

THEY FOLLOW ME

"*MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE, AND I KNOW THEM, AND THEY FOLLOW ME*"
(JOHN 10:27)

Beloved, we follow Him. Why do we follow Him? Why do we follow the LORD our righteousness? Because beloved, as the Psalmist puts it ever so blessedly He "*set us in the way of His steps*" (PSALM 85:13). How does He do that? Beloved, He grants His sheep to hear His word, to hear His voice and are made to know the Lord Jesus Christ. You see, He goes before us; indeed, every step we take the Lord took first and we follow Him who is our righteousness. AMEN!

PASTOR

THY FAITH HATH SAVED THEE

"...*THY FAITH HATH SAVED THEE; GO IN PEACE*" (LUKE 7:50)

We know that strictly speaking, it is not our faith that saved us. Faith did not keep the law for me. Christ did! Faith did not die on the cross for my sins. Christ did! Faith was not raised from the dead, Christ was! Yet the Lord says, "*Thy faith hath saved thee.*" Why does the Saviour put this high honor on our faith? Because faith looks to Christ alone! It rests in Him only, and looks nowhere else! It gives all the honor of salvation to Christ! A faith that does not do that is not saving faith to begin with. Christ puts such honor on faith because true faith puts all honor on HIM!

PASTOR TODD NIBERT

LORD, DON'T LET ME BE A JUDAS IN MY HEART

"BRETHREN, I COUNT NOT MYSELF TO HAVE APPREHENDED: BUT THIS ONE THING I DO, FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND, AND REACHING FORTH UNTO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEFORE, I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK FOR THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS. LET US THEREFORE, AS MANY AS BE PERFECT, BE THUS MINDED: AND IF IN ANY THING YE BE OTHERWISE MINDED, GOD SHALL REVEAL EVEN THIS UNTO YOU."

(PHILIPPIANS 3:13-15)

Don't let me put confidence in spiritual gifts. Judas was a preacher, held an office in the church; a very high position, he was an apostle and yet perished at last. If these things never made Judas a saint, neither will they make me one. If they never gave him inward holiness, neither will they give it to me. All the gifts Judas had only rendered his damnation greater. Oh, to think that I could go from the pulpit to hell is dreadful. Oh, I must have the GIVER! Lord, don't let me be a Judas in my heart. Don't let me love money! Judas loved money; his and everyone else's. The love of money will blind my eyes from seeing Christ, stop my ears from hearing him and bind my feet from following him. It will cause me to harden my conscience, betray friendships, forsake fellowship, and neglect the salvation of my precious soul. Oh, Lord, give me grace to be content with such things as are needful for this present life, knowing that I must soon leave all and go to my long home. Lord, don't let me be a Judas in my heart. Don't let me betray the Savior. Don't let me say with Judas, "What will you give me and I will deliver him unto you?" "What will you give me for the time I spend in private prayer to Him? My time of seeking Him in His word? What will you give me for my love to Him? My desire for Him? My public profession of Him? My time of fellowship with His people? What will you give me and I will deliver HIM TO YOU?" Oh, Lord, I am such a wretch, I will prove like Judas at last if you don't love me, pray for me, and keep me from being a Judas IN MY HEART.

PASTOR BRUCE CRABTREE

"NOT THAT WE ARE SUFFICIENT OF OURSELVES TO THINK ANY THING AS OF OURSELVES; BUT OUR SUFFICIENCY IS OF GOD; WHO ALSO HATH MADE US ABLE MINISTERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT; NOT OF THE LETTER, BUT OF THE SPIRIT: FOR THE LETTER KILLETH, BUT THE SPIRIT GIVETH LIFE"

(2 CORINTHIANS 3:5-6)